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The Docket

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Georgia State University College of Law

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A Letter From the Dean

The last few weeks have included a continuing series of welcoming events. At these occasions I have been introduced to a number of the constituencies that are crucial to the success of this College's efforts. We are fortunate to enjoy very enthusiastic reactions from legal and civic leaders. Deans Johnson and Knowles and Acting Deans Lanier and Blasi are to be commended for their success at building such supportive relationships.

I also enjoyed being able to attend the very successful program sponsored by the International and Comparative Law Society on "The Due Process Rights of Aliens Seeking Asylum." All of the presentations were first-rate, and the topic was very timely.

That particular occasion was most enjoyable, but I am feeling increasingly isolated from easy contact with students in my fourth floor location. In order to increase our ability to visit informally, let me make two suggestions. First, if your organization or group would like me to attend an event, please let my assistant, Cynthia Fox-Giddens, know **as soon as you select a date**. If I don't learn about it until your publicity becomes available, I may already have a prior commitment. (For example, Ms. Fox-Giddens is already making some appointments for me in late March and early April.) Second, in order to have a chance to visit with evening, as well as day, students I have scheduled a **"Brown Bag Supper" for Thursday, March 12 at 5 P.M. in the first floor student lounge**. Please do plan to join me at that time.

Meanwhile, I hope that "spring break" was refreshing for each of you. Welcome back to those who have been preoccupied with the bar review in recent weeks!

Marjorie L. Girth, Dean

Gate City Bar Association

The March meeting of the Gate City Bar Association will be a panel discussion focusing on law schools in the State of Georgia. Dean Girth will be representing Georgia State on the panel. Students are invited to attend the meeting which will be held on March 11 at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the Fulton County Government Center.

Blood Drive Upcoming

Phi Delta Phi is sponsoring another Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 31 from noon until 6:00 P.M. in the first floor Student Lounge. The Red Cross is very low on blood supplies and desperately needs our help. Our last drive in the fall was very successful and we hope to do even better this time.

VITA

Last year the Student Bar Association began a VITA program. VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The program is continuing this year. Student volunteers are needed to assist GSU students with the 1040EZ form. The VITA program will be in Room 302 in Urban Life on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, March 3 & 31, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Wednesday, March 11 & April 1, 3 P.M. - 5 P.M.

Please sign up as a volunteer on the sign-up sheet outside the SBA office on the 2nd floor. This pro bono project is easy and does not require a lot of your time. PLEASE HELP!

Prey
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Student Trial Lawyers Association

American Bar Association Regional Tournament

The first Tournament to be held this Spring was the American Bar Association Regional Tournament which was held in Jacksonville, Florida from February 13-16. Because of the difficulty posed by the close proximity of the ABA Tournament with the February Bar Exam, GSU was the only law school in Georgia to send teams to Jacksonville. The team composed of Randy Rich, Cheryl Champion, and Charles Jones was undefeated going into the final day of the Tournament, but was narrowly defeated by Cumberland Law School in the final round. The Rich/Champion/Jones team had previously defeated another Cumberland team in the Semi-Final Round (4-1). Additionally, the Rich/Champion/Jones team had scored victories over Nova (3-0), Florida (2-1), and Miami (2-0).

The team of Steve Ellis, Rhonda Brodsky, and Monte Davis was only defeated in the Tournament by teams from Alabama and Stetson who both competed in the final round. The success of both teams is even more impressive because the GSU Teams were the only teams in the Tournament which included two second year attorneys per team. The teams success were also due in part to the following outstanding second year witnesses which also competed with the teams: Brenda Bates, Clara Bucci, Chandra Carter, and Kim Stephens.

Association of Trial Lawyers of America Tournament

The Association of Trial Lawyers of America Regional Competition will be held in Norfolk, Virginia on March 6-8. The team members are Beth McFadyen, Scott Smith, Stacey Kasten and Steve Webster as attorneys; and Jane Blount, Chip Carson, Mark Cole and Susan Rappa as witnesses. The results of this Tournament were not available at the time of press for this publication and details will be included in the next issue.

Georgia Intrastate Tournament

Georgia State University Mock Trial Teams will also be participating in the Georgia Intrastate Mock Trial Tournament which will be held in April at the Gwinnett County Courthouse. The students chosen as attorneys are Bill Hamrick, Ray Ragland, Maria Bianco, Mike Smith, Jeff Walker, and Sheila Chrzan. Additionally, Les Cunningham and Tom Shafer will be witnesses for the State Tournament. When the problem is received from the State Bar of Georgia, additional witnesses will be selected from the alternates who tried out this Fall. Last year, teams from GSU placed first and second in the State Tournament, and we wish this year's teams the same success.

Hearsay Column

Have you heard. . .

. . .that the newly found Federalist Society's faculty advisor, Jack Williams, is a closet liberal? The Federalists, fearing infiltration by the enemy, have sought out an advisor more closely aligned with its views. However, Robert Bork is not on the faculty at GSU and rumor has it that Professor Hogue is waiting in the wings.

. . . that Ed Tanner (the old man with the ponytail and mismatched clothes) wanted to attend the Federalist Society initial meeting? One of the more active Federalists, Evelyn Ashley, refused to divulge either the meeting time or place to Ed.

Last we heard, Ed was getting his old GI fatigues out of the closet in preparation for storming the next meeting.

. . . about Professor Mary Radford's superb presentation of her experiences as a Supreme Court Fellow? It's hard to envision Professor Radford as a Fellow - maybe a Fellowstriss or even a Fellowperson, But a Fellow? No way!

. . . that Jeff Walker accepted an appointment with the JAG Corps because he thought that once the poor defenseless defendant was judged guilty, he would be able to shoot him on the spot?

SBA Bookstore

If you find that you're falling behind in class and need a helping hand, remember that the SBA Bookstore has a wide selection of study aids for you to choose from.

To sell your used study aids, put your name and box number on one side of an envelope and the name of the book and your asking price on the other side of the envelope. Tape the envelope to the inside cover of the book and bring to the SBA office. That's all there is to it!

Christian Legal Society

The Christian Legal Society will meet on Wednesdays during March and April from 12:00 - 1:00 in Room 325B.

Environmental Law Society News

The ELS spring forums promise to provide much insight into the many sides of current environmental issues. Don't miss these events!

Thursday, March 12 3:00 - 5:00 Room 100

Pizza & Cokes available

*Guests: Ten attorneys who practice environmental law in the Georgia area.

Wednesday, April 8 12:00 - 1:00 Room TBA

Bring your lunch

*Guests: Attorneys representing development and government concerns will focus on the Wetlands "Taking" Issue.

Monday, March 30 5:00 Room TBA

Next regular membership meeting - Join Us!

Touch the Earth

Many of us have a place where we've stored away objects from childhood that once held great power; pennies crushed on railroad tracks, sling-shots, Barbie dolls or GI Joes. Such relics represent the time we could only wonder what life held in store, and while we played with them we acted out our fantasies and ambitions. To look at these objects and touch them again can return us to the state of wonder and rekindle our visions of life to come.

Being pulled into the past is a powerful experience, making us question our current path, but there are other ways to open the doors of perception within ourselves and begin to see reality and possibility through a different lens. Georgia State's "Touch the Earth" is one such program and operates on the premise that by interacting with the Earth, with the reality of nature, we can more clearly understand the full scope of our individual lives and our collective life.

The trips range from adrenalin producing probes into unknown worlds (caves, swamps, mountains, rivers and oceans) to finding your own private Walden in silent, challenging effort or in calm, reflective repose. Opportunities range from the hedonistic (skiing), to the contemplative (horseback riding), and accommodate enthusiasts as well as the just curious.

For those of us whose childhood ambitions have led to the often difficult and seemingly overwhelming task of law school, a return to the state of wonder can operate like a turn on the tracking knob, clearing distortion from our vision of life to come. A bit of reflection, a bit of challenge on some other grounds than coursework can pull from us, not objects of our past, but pieces of ourselves long forgotten; it could be some of the best invested time of the semester. The touch of the Earth on you may be surprising.

The Touch the Earth program is detailed each quarter in The Recreation Rap-Up, available at the second floor equipment issue desk of the Physical Education building just across the street from the Law School. Keith Wiseman is a member of the Student Advisory Board for Touch the Earth and is available to answer your questions at 732-1627.

